

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /104 R

DRAFTED BY IO:CWMAYNES:OM
APPROVED BY IO:CWMAYNES
NEA: NVELIOTES
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
JCS WASHDC 0011
SECDEF WASHDC 0011

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, LE, PORG, MARR, ASEC

SUBJECT: U.S. AIRLIFT FOR UNIFIL

1. SYG WALDHEIM AGREES THAT U.S. MILITARY AIRLIFT FOR
UNIFIL SHOULD LAND IN BEN GURION AIRPORT RATHER THAN IN
BEIRUT.

2. SYG WALDHEIM CALLED AMBASSADOR LEONARD MARCH 28 TO EX-
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PRESS CONCERN, BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS IT WOULD
CREATE, AT REPORTS THAT THE U.S. PLANNED TO CONDUCT ITS AIR-
LIFT FOR UNIFIL OUT OF BEN GURION RATHER THAN BEIRUT AIR-
PORT. LEONARD STATED HE WOULD HAVE SOMEONE FROM THE STATE
DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE THE SYG.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES TELEPHONED WALDHEIM IM-

MEDIATELY TO EXPLAIN THE CONCERN OF U.S. MILITARY OVER REPORTS IT HAD FROM BEIRUT OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE AREA FOR INCOMING U.S. AIRCRAFT. MAYNES NOTED THAT WHILE THE SECURITY OF THE AIRPORT PERIMETER ITSELF WAS APPARENTLY ADEQUATE, THE DANGER WAS IN SOME UNCONTROLLABLE ELEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT DECIDING TO ATTACK ONE OF THE AIRCRAFT UPON ITS APPROACH TO THE LANDING STRIP.

4. WALDHEIM CONFIRMED THAT THE UN FORCES IN THE AREA WERE NOW REPORTING TO HIM SIMILAR CONCERNS. HE SAID THAT HE HAD THEREFORE CONTACTED UN LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TUENI WHO CONSULTED BEIRUT AND CONFIRMED TO THE SYG THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADEQUATE SECURITY AT THE BEIRUT AIRPORT AND DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WAS REAL DANGER, IT ALSO DID NOT OBJECT IF U.S. AIRCRAFT ASSISTING UNIFIL LANDED AT BEN GURION AIRPORT.

5. THE SYG SAID THAT, IN LIGHT OF THIS REACTION, HE BELIEVED THE U.S. AIRLIFT SHOULD MOVE THROUGH BEN GURION AIRPORT. HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME OF THE SMALLER AIRCRAFT USED BY THE GERMANS AND NORWEGIANS, WHICH WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED AS AMERICAN, MIGHT USE BEIRUT AIRPORT TO MAKE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL POINT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE UN WOULD ESTABLISH ITS HEADQUARTERS IN TYRE AND STATED THAT AT SOME POINT SUPPLIES TO THE FORCES MIGHT MOVE BY SEA THROUGH TYRE, THEREBY AGAIN PROVIDING A POLITICAL

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SIGNAL WHICH ALL AGREED WOULD BE USEFUL.

6. MAYNES PROMISED THE SYG THAT WE WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM ON THIS ISSUE. THE SYG IN TURN SAID HE WISHED TO AGAIN EXPRESS HIS THANKS FOR ALL OF THE ASSISTANCE THE USG WAS PROVIDING.

7. WE ARE INFORMED BY ISRAELI UN MISSION THAT UN HAS APPROACHED THEM ON THIS DECISION AND MISSION HAS INFORMED TEL AVIV. THEY DO NOT EXPECT A REPLY UNTIL MARCH 30. HOWEVER, EMBASSY TEL AVIV AND CONGEN JERUSALEM, AS APPROPRIATE, MAY WEIGH IN ON THIS TO MOVE IT ALONG. FYI. ISRAELI MISSION INFORMED USUN THAT THEY ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTIES.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: CWMAYNES:OM
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TAGS: MASS, PORG, MARR, ASEC, LE, US, UNIFIL
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